



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE Comments On The Sentencing Of John Anthony Planck *Planck sentenced to federal prison for possessing, distributing child pornography*

Houston, Texas -- In response to the sentencing of John Anthony Planck, announced today by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, ICE issued the following statement:

"Those who believe they can further the exploitation of children by hiding in cyberspace are sorely mistaken," said Robert Rutt, special agent in charge for the ICE Office of Investigations in Houston. "This decade-long sentence should make clear that, not only is possessing and distributing this material reprehensible, it is a serious crime with severe consequences.

The investigation into Planck was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to safeguard children against Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, and human traffickers. Since its launch in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,800 and deported more than 3,100 individuals nationwide.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators, and any suspicious activity, through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may also be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.



**U. S. Department of Justice
U. S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas
News Release**

Chuck Rosenberg • United States Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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**FLIGHT ATTENDANT SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING AND
POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

(HOUSTON, TX) United States Attorney Chuck Rosenberg announced today that John Anthony Planck, 38, was sentenced to a total of 10 years and a month (121 months) in federal prison, without parole, for distributing images of child pornography and possession of child pornography and a lifetime of supervised release thereafter.

At a sentencing hearing held today before United States District Judge Ewing Werlein, Planck was ordered to serve 121 months in federal prison for distributing images of child pornography in December 2003. Planck will also serve a concurrent term of ten years (120 months) for possessing child pornography in August 2004. Planck has been in federal custody since his April 14, 2005, arrest after arriving in Houston aboard a flight from Mexico City. Planck, who had previously been employed as a flight attendant at the time of the offenses, had been in Mexico City, Mexico, since August 2004, when investigating agents executed a search warrant at his Kingwood apartment. Planck was returning to the United States to meet with airline officials to discuss his returning to work.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Werlein ordered Planck to serve a life term of supervised release following his release from prison, during which he will be required to register as a sex offender and not have any contact with children under the age of 18 years, including through employment, residence, volunteer work or other activities. He also may not use a computer without permission from Court officials. He was also fined \$2000.

Planck's convictions are the result of an investigation initiated by ICE agents in April 2004 upon receiving a lead from the ICE office in Newark, New Jersey, about Onlinesharingcommunity.com (OSC), a subscription-based website containing both adult and child pornography website. The investigation into OSC revealed that the website allowed members to upload and download images as well as post messages. When a member subscribed to the site, that member was assigned a

member number that uniquely identified that user. When a member uploaded an image to the site, the corresponding member number was added as a prefix to the name of the image file. The member could upload the image to the member's own album or to albums of various categories based on the content of the images. The ICE Houston investigation led to the identification of Planck as the individual who used an e-mail address of "johnnyboyplanck@hotmail.com" to subscribe to OSC, where he used member name "jboyjluv" and assigned member number 11604 to upload images of child pornography. The minors depicted in the child pornography possessed by the Planck are actual persons under the age of 18, some of who have been identified through law enforcement investigations in the U.S. and outside the country.

Planck has admitted to using the email address "johnnyboyplanck@hotmail.com", to paying for subscriptions to child pornographic websites including Onlinesharingcommunity.com, and using chat rooms to exchange images of child pornography.

Indicted in May 2005, Planck pleaded guilty in August 2005 to using a computer and the Internet on December 4 though 8, 2003, and participating in a subscription-based website that posted and distributed images of children, some under the age of 12 years, who were engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults. Planck distributed approximately 23 images of child pornography to members of the subscription website, which has since been shut down. His two home computers and over 200 computer disks were seized by ICE agents in August 19, 2004, and were found to contain about 5000 of images of child pornography, some of whom were identified victims of sexual abuse and some were as young as 1-2 years of age.

Planck faced a minimum of five years imprisonment and a maximum of 20 years for the distribution of child pornography conviction and any term of years of supervised release after imprisonment, up to a life term. Planck received the maximum statutory sentence of 10 years imprisonment for the possession of child pornography conviction.

The conviction was the result of an investigation conducted by the Houston office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Predator Group. Inspectors with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection helped facilitate his arrest. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha Minnis.

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